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# Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 H-01 BIB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 IO-13 ACDA-12 TRSE-00 HA-05 /084 W
----------006620 240437Z /62
R 231600Z DEC 77
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5994
INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMCONSUL MUNICH
AMCONSUL LENINGRAD
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
USIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 18479

BELGRADE ALSO FOR USDEL CSCE
USIA FOR IOP, IBS, IPS, IEU

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, PINS, CSCE, SHUM, UR
SUBJ: TASS COMMENTARY ON SHCHARANSKIY CASE

REF: MOSCOW 7875

1. TASS POLITICAL COMMENTATOR YURI KORNILOV, WRITING ON DECEMBER 22, CRITICIZES ALLEGED WESTERN ANTI-SOVIET PROPAGANDA CAMPAIGN ON HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS, CONFIDENTIAL

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ESPECIALLY AS IT FOCUSES ON SHCHARANSKIY CASE (WE ASSUME DEPARTMENT HAS FULL TEXT OF TASS ENGLISH-LANGUAGE ITEM).

2. AS IN HIS JUNE 3 TASS PIECE (REFTEL), MUCH OF WHICH IS HIS REHASED IN CURRENT ARTICLE, KORNILOV NOWHERE USES TERM "TREASON"

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IN REFERRING EITHER TO CHARGES AGAINST SHCHARANSKIY
OR TO SUBSTANCE OF HIS ALLEGED ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES.
MOST DAMNING ALLEGATION IS THAT SHCHARANSKIY
FORWARDED "INFORMATION ON SOVIET ENTERPRISES AND
INSTITUTIONS, INFORMATION WHICH CONSTITUTED STATE
SECRETS." COMBINED WITH STATEMENT THAT HE "WAS
CHARGED WITH HELPING A FOREIGN STATE IN ITS HOSTILE
ACTIVITIES AGAINST THE SOVIET UNION," INFERENCE IS THAT
CHARGE OF TREASON CORRESPONDS TO HIS ALLEGED ILLEGAL
ACTIVITIES. HOWEVER, ASSERTION THAT SOVIET JUDICIAL
AGENCIES "HAVE TO LOOK INTO THE CHARGES PREFERRED
AGAINST SHCAHARANSKIY AND TO TAKE THEIR DECISION" SEEMS
TO LEAVE OPEN AT LEAST SOME POSSIBILITY THAT CHARGE
ON WHICH HE IS TRIED MAY ULTIMATELY BE SOMETHING
OTHER THAN TREASON. WHATEVER THE CHARGE, EVIDENCE
CITED IN ARTICLE SUGGESTS THAT SOVIET AUTHORITIES
ARE RELYING HEAVILY ON LIPAVSKIY AND TOTH STATEMENTS
AS BASIS OF THEIR CASE.

3. WE THINK THAT TIMING OF ARTICLE PROBABLY RELATES
TO FACT THAT BELGRADE CONFERENCE HAS JUST RECESSED
AND TO RECENT SIX-MONTH EXTENSION OF SHCHARANSKIY
PRE-TRIAL DETENTION. IT IS POSSIBLE THAT SOVIETS MAY
HAVE DECIDED TO GET TRIAL OVER WITH BEFORE BELGRADE
CONFERENCE RECONVENES, THEN ARGUE AFTER RECONVENING
THAT REFERENCES TO IT ARE IN APPROPRIATE. HOWEVER,
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IN LIGHTOF AMBASSADOR GOLDBERG'S SUCCESS IN
PRESERVING RIGHT TO ADDRESS LATER DEVELOPMENTS IN
BELGRADE PLENARY SESSIONS, WE ARE NOW INCLINED ON
BALANCE TO VIEW THAT MOSCOW WOULD PREFER TO KEEP ITS
OPTIONS OPEN AWHILE LONGER, WATCHING FURTHER
DEVELOPMENTS AT BELGRADE AND ELSEWHERE.
TOON

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NNN

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# Message Attributes

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**Concepts:** PRESS COMMENTS
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009
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**Disposition History:** n/a
**Disposition Reason:**
**Disposition Remarks:**
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**TAGS:** PINT, PINS, SHUM, UR, CSCE, (SHCHARANSKIY, ANATOLIY)
**To:** STATE
**Type:** TE
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**Review Markings:**
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